

PLEASE AMEND THE CLAIMS AS FOLLOWS:

Cancel claims 1-5, 14, 15, 16, 29, 30, 31, 54-69

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7. (amended) A nickel-metal hydride multi-cell battery, comprising:

a battery case; and

a plurality of nickel-metal hydride electrochemical cells housed in said battery case, each of said cells including:

at least one nickel hydroxide positive electrode, at least one hydrogen storage alloy negative electrode and an alkaline electrolyte; and

an enclosure housing said at least one positive electrode, said at least one negative electrode and said electrolyte, said enclosure including a gas permeable membrane allowing passage of cell gases into and out of said cell but preventing passage of said electrolyte out of said cell.

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9. (amended) The battery of claim 7, wherein said membrane comprises a hydrophobic material.

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22. (amended) A nickel-metal hydride multi-cell battery, comprising:

a battery case; and

a plurality of nickel-metal hydride electrochemical cells housed in said battery case, each of said cells including:

at least one nickel hydroxide positive electrode,  
at least one hydrogen storage alloy negative electrode and  
an alkaline electrolyte; and

*AS*  
an enclosure housing said at least one positive  
electrode, said at least one negative electrode and said  
electrolyte, said enclosure having an opening allowing  
passage of cell gases into and out of said cell; and

a hydrophobic material positioned relative to  
said opening so as to prevent passage of said  
electrolyte out of said cell.

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